



The School House ECLC

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Effective as of January 20th, 2022

This is a living document and is subject to change as more information is released by The Provincial Health Officer, Child Care Licensing and WorkSafeBC

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: My child in the Bobcats is sick (runny nose, sore throat, fever, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea). Can my child in Lynx still attend?

A: No. Your child in the Lynx program may not attend because he/she has been in close contact with their ill sibling.

Q: Who is required to wear masks and when?

A: All parents and visitors are required to wear a mask while inside the centre. Staff are required to wear masks at pickup and drop off times as there are many adults filtering through. Staff are also required to wear masks in all common areas.

Q: My child has a runny nose with clear discharge/ mucus. Can they still attend?

A: Yes. As long as they are not exhibiting *any other symptoms from the key symptoms list* and they are well enough to *actively participate* in daily routines. If there is any yellow or green they may not attend. See link below for information regarding mucus colours;
<https://www.nebraskamed.com/primary-care/is-it-allergies-covid-19-or-something-else-wh-at-your-mucus-might-mean>

Q: My child is teething and/or has seasonal allergies so I gave them some tylenol to soothe symptoms. Can they still attend while on tylenol etc?

A: Yes. If they are comfortable, have no other symptoms, and are able to follow the daily routine at the centre.

SECTION I:

***By attending The School House and being a part of our larger 'bubble' it is assumed and expected that in addition to all School House Policies, families and staff adhere to all current Provincial Guidelines in regards to Pandemic Safety. See current restrictions here:**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

1) Any child, staff or parent is prohibited from entering the child care space if they are sick. Review the Wellness Questionnaire daily to ascertain if you are well enough to attend.

- If a person develops symptoms while at the facility, the affected person needs to be isolated in a separate area and the parent should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Staff will be required to go home immediately too. If a separate room is not available, the affected person needs to be kept at least 2 metres away from other people.

- If any child is visibly upset and needs to be reassured/ comforted, they will be until the parent is able to pick the child up. Caregivers should be mindful of handwashing and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child.

-All items, bedding, toys etc. used by the child while isolated should be sanitised as soon as the child has been picked up.

- If a staff member shows symptoms of Covid-19 they will be asked to leave/stay home and get tested for Covid-19 as soon as possible. The remaining staff at the centre will be asked to self monitor their health until the test results for the sick staff come back negative. If and when it comes back negative and their symptoms have improved, they can return to work.

-If any child has come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19, they will be required to isolate themselves from the centre for 10 days. After 10 days have passed, if they have not developed any symptoms, they are welcome to attend care.

- If a staff member has come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19, they will be asked to isolate themselves and/or their child/ren for 10 days if they are unvaccinated and for 5 days if they are fully vaccinated.

- Upon confirmation of a positive covid-19 case at our centre, we may choose to close a classroom or the entire program, depending on the specific situation and multiple variables at play. Each situation will be analysed separately.

Reminder to all families, to check emails regularly for up to date and last minute notifications/changes.

Parents & staff must review the Wellness Questionnaire each day.

2) Child care programs must adhere to the following **handwashing** guidelines. Specifically, programs must engage in frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times:

- At the start of the day and before going home.
- After going to the washroom.
- After a diaper change or toileting a child (both children and staff).
- Before and after preparing food.
- Before and after eating.
- After getting your hands dirty.
- After cleaning tasks (staff).

Child care staff should help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly and regularly after playing, toileting, diaper changing, eating (faces too).

Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is not recommended for routine use in child care.

3) Parents should provide all meals and PM snacks (School House is currently only providing a morning snack). If a child does not show up with food for the day, the program may provide the child food. There should be no common food items (e.g. shared snack bowl). **Utensils should always be used to serve food items (not fingers)**. Food should be served on a plate/bowl, not on the table itself. For birthday celebrations families or staff may bring/provide healthy, store-bought food items to share. No home made items at this time.

4) Programs should engage in frequent, thorough cleaning each day. Child care programs shall follow Licensing regulations regarding cleaning, sanitising and disinfecting. Follow the program's regular routine cleaning and disinfecting practises. In addition, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects/toys and surfaces multiple times throughout the day. Staff, to the best of their abilities, will disinfect play areas and materials as the day goes on.

5) All visitors to the centre must pass the Wellness Questionnaire, sign in for contact tracing and wear a mask while in the building.

Parents or guardians are able to enter the program one at a time for pick up/drop off as long as they meet the Health and Wellness Questionnaire guidelines, use hand sanitizer and are wearing a mask.

6) Where possible, social distancing practises should occur.

SECTION II:

Staff attire:

- Masks are required in common areas for everyone, regardless of vaccination, whenever not eating. Staff are also required to wear masks at pick up/drop off times when in close proximity to parents.
- Disposable masks will be provided (while supplies last) to staff/parents who need them; however, considering the environmental impact of disposable masks it is recommended that staff purchase reusable/washable masks.

Staff Covid-19 Vaccinations

- Staff are not required to be vaccinated; however, they will be given the time off to receive it, if they so choose. Confidentiality regarding vaccination status will be strictly upheld.

Staff Meetings and Meeting Rooms:

- When staff meetings are held in person Staff are required to attend unless they do not pass the Wellness Questionnaire. In this case they will be offered a zoom link to participate remotely.
- Staff are required to social distance in common areas whenever possible.

SECTION III:

Toys & Equipment:

- Classroom toys and supplies will be disinfected on a rotating weekly basis *at least*. Toys that are visibly dirty or 'mouthed' will be cleaned daily. If time allows, disinfecting can be more frequent.
- Disposable paper towels will be used in place of linen towels.
- Items such as soothers are permitted, but under strict supervision and will require disinfecting after each use. Soothers will need to be stored in a clean, labelled container with a lid.
- Childcare sleep items will be permitted and laundered weekly- but only for use when napping. The School House carefully curates their toys and equipment and prefers home toys stay at home.

Social Distancing Among Children

- It has been agreed upon among working staff that social distancing for children while they are engaged in learning/play would be detrimental to their mental wellbeing and developmental growth; therefore, children will be permitted to play within close contact of each other. Staff will continue to respond to children's needs, physically, emotionally and mentally, therefore if children require cuddling, rocking, and/or holding, educators will do so.

Sleeping and Feeding Protocol

- Bedding will be disinfected and washed weekly.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitised before and after eating as per usual..
- Lunch items need to be stored in a clean lunch bag/box and stored separately from other children's items as per usual.

Sanitation Protocols

- Staff should be following regular BC Childcare licensing sanitation protocols of 1 tablespoon of household **bleach** per 1 gallon of water or 1 teaspoon of household **bleach** per 1 litre of water to sanitise all surfaces, objects and high touch point areas.
- Floors in all areas used will be mopped with a disinfectant solution at least once per day.
- After toys are sanitised they need to be set in an area away from playing children to dry for at least 10 minutes. Bleach evaporates in 10 minutes.
- Bleach solution kept in spray bottles must be replaced and replenished daily as bleach degrades quickly when mixed with water and exposed to light.
- Spray bottles with soapy water can be used to clean soiled areas, but must be followed up with bleach solution to sanitise.

SECTION IV:

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- For the ongoing nurturance and growth of young children, mental health is just as important as physical, emotional and cognitive. An effort will be made to ensure all working staff are comfortable with the changes in our centres' responses to covid-19 as per BC's chief health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. BC Mental Health and Crisis line Services are listed below

The Crisis Line Association of BC (CLABC) is the provincial association representing member crisis lines from across British Columbia. Members of CLABC provide emotional support, crisis and suicide assessment and intervention, and resource information.

Crisis line workers are trained in critical skills such as empathetic reflection, active listening, and collaborative problem solving. They use crisis and suicide assessment and intervention protocols that are based on recognized better practices. The following crisis line services are available:

- [1-800-SUICIDE \(1-800-784-2433\)](#): for individuals who are or know someone who is having thoughts of suicide. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and in up to 140 languages. Operated in partnership with Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC.
- [310-Mental Health \(310-6789\)](#): for individuals who would like emotional support, information and resources specific to mental health in British Columbia. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is toll-free anywhere in British Columbia (no need to dial an area code).
- [Map of Crisis Lines](#): provides an interactive map to search for the direct number to local crisis line services in British Columbia. While 1-800-SUICIDE is available across the province and is designed to transfer callers to the local crisis line service closest to the community of the caller, in some instances individuals may prefer to contact the crisis line in their community direct.